Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for the Engineering. Procurement and Construction (EPC) contract of the OIFP and to evaluate the tcchnical-cum-unpriced commerical bids. Tcchnical-cum-unpriccd commercial bids for the EPC contract were rccieved in September/October 1995. M/S Jacob Engineering technically qualified all the three bidders in March 1996. The exercise of evaluation of the priced bids, which had been opened in February 1996, was carried out in consulate ton with M/S Lazard Brothers, Financial Adviser to the project, with the technical support of an expert seconded by M/S Jacob Engineering. During the period of the evaluation, the expert continued to be an employee of the *M/S* Jacob Engineering, to which the payment for his services was made.

(c) and (d) No official of Department of Fertilizers visited Oman during the period intervening between the announcement of the general elections and the constitution of the 12th Lok Sabha.

(e) Since the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the joint venture project on 30.7.94, the following delegations of the Ministry have visited Oman with the approval of the appropriate authorities:

(i) A delegation led by Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers, which included four senior officials of the Ministry, visited Oman from 4 to 8 January, 1997.

(ii) A delegation led by Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers, which included four senior offcials of the Ministry, visited Oman from 14 to 18 September 1997.

Besides the above, since the signing of the MOU, officials of the Ministry have, with due authorisation, visited Oman on 17 occasions to participate in various meetings in connection with the project.

Use of DPCO, 1995 and New Drug Policy, 1994 to the Detriment of Consumers

1053. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
DR. MOHAN BABU:
DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO:
Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether social legislation like DPCO, 1995 and New Drug Policy, 1994 have been used to resort to company-wise discrimination ignoring the consumer interests;

(b) how is Government tolerating such a situation and why responsibility has not been fixed so far;

(c) how industry can implement prices when bulk drugs have been included or excluded from price control ignoring the criteria approved by Government or twisting the criteria; and

(d) why the report based on which drugs were excluded or included under price control was not made public and by when the same is proposed to be done in the interest of transparency and natural justice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A. K. PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Drugs mentioned in the First Schedule of Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1995 have been identified for price control by applying the criteria laids down in the "Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986" across the board. It is mandatory for the companies to follow the prices as fixedtevised by the Government from time to time.